(c) whether Government are considering to train the force for specialised courses in Israel, U.K., and USA;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether these Government have acceded to the proposal for training in their countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND) : (a) and (b) It is proposed to earmark, train, equip and position specialist teams for emergency response in the event of nuclear, biological and chemical related emergencies/disasters.

(c) to (e) There is no such proposal at present.

Fake ST/SC Certificates

2455. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of officials using fake ST/SC certificates for securing coveted Government jobs have come to the notice of Government;

(b) so, the details in this regard;

(c) how such unscrupulous candidates could pass through the strict vigilance of the UPSC;

(d) whether applications of such candidates are strictly scrutinised; and

(e) the action contemplated by Government to enforce stricter norms to screen such applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Seizure of Uranium

2456. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether semi-processed Uranium of explosive grade has been seized by the Intelligence agencies and Bangladeshi Security forces recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this Uranium was packed in protective packets complete with user's manual; and

(d) what are the steps taken by Government to prevent misuse of these Uranium packets by terrorist groups working in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND) : (a) and (b) According to a report, the Bangladesh Rifles recently seized a packet suspected to contain 225 grams of raw semi-processed uranium in Nowgaon district in Bangladesh. Few arrests are reported to have been made.

(c) The meterial seized in the packet is reported to have a lable indicating that it was uranium, with dates of production and expiry, quantity etc. A catalogue is also reported to have been recovered along with the matterial. The seized material is reported to be in the custody of Bangladesh authorities.

(d) All matters having security implications are closely monitored by the Government.

Sexual harassment of women in police custody

†2457. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the cases of sexual harassment of women in police custody; and

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the increase in the number of such cases during last five years and culprit punished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) and (b) 'Police' being a State subject under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, the information about individual cases of sexual harassment in policy custody is not maintained centrally. However, as per available information 6, 6, 4, 4, and 2 cases of custodial rape were reported in the country during 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000 respectively. The State-wise details of custodial rape cases and their disposal by police/courts during 2000 are at Statement I and the persons arrested under custodial rape cases are at Statement-II.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.